

VLR-11/5/68 NRHP-10/1/69

Form 10-300  
(Dec. 1968)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: King William	
FOR PIPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69-10-45-0037	DATE 10-1-69

## 1. NAME

COMMON:

King William County Court House

HISTORIC:

King William County Court House

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: E side of Rt. 619, .1 mi. N of intersection of Rt. 619 and  
Rt. 30.

CITY OR TOWN:

King William

STATE

Virginia

CODE

45

COUNTY:

King William

CODE

101

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work In progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
			No: <input type="checkbox"/>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:

King William County

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

King William

STATE:

Virginia

CODE

45

STATE:  
Virginia  
COUNTY:  
King William

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

King William County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

King William

STATE:

Virginia

CODE

45

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3 acres

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1941

Federal ☒

State 3

County ☐Local ☐

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington

STATE:

District of Columbia

CODE

08

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>			Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

King William Court House is a one-story T-shaped structure with a steep hipped roof and modillioned cornice. Its most striking feature is the five-bay open arcade extending *across the entire* facade. The brickwork is finely laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers, while the arches of the arcade are dressed with rubbed brick stretchers. The rear of the building has been extended one bay and an exterior end chimney has been added to the rear wall. The original wooden shingle roof has been replaced by a slate roof. An interesting survival in the court yard is the early lowbrick wall with its stile-like steps built around the yard to keep out grazing cattle.

Unfortunately little of the eighteenth century fabric remains visible on the interior, but the plan with the jury room and the judge's chamber in the arms of the "T" is basically intact. A Later partition, however, has been placed across the center section of the building, thus decreasing the original size of the court room in order to make an entrance hall.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

# 8. SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☒ 20th Century ☐  
 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☐ 19th Century ☐

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historic	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	losophy	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Invention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Human-	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Communications	<input type="checkbox"/>	Literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	itarian	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Theater	<input type="checkbox"/>		
		Music	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>		

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

King William Court House, erected circa 1725, is one of the oldest surviving and best preserved courthouses in Virginia, and is considered to be the oldest courthouse "still in use as such" in the United States. The form of the building was the prototype for several other eighteenth century Virginia courthouses. It should be noted that the building still retains its almost completely rural setting which was common for courthouses and churches in colonial Virginia because of the plantation society. Few other public buildings either in Virginia or the rest of the country can claim such a long record of public use and service.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY King William	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: King William County Court House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: King William County Court House			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: E side of Rt. 619, .1 mi. N of intersection of Rt. 619 and Rt. 30.			
CITY OR TOWN: King William			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	45	King William	101
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7½', quadrangle King William, Va.			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1949			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY King William	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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CITY OR TOWN: King William			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	45	King William	101
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1968			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Richmond, Virginia			
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
View from the Southwest			

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
King William	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory  
1959 Federal  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D. C.

Code: 08

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #50-38  
1968 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Code: 45

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clarke, Peyton Neale, Old King William Homes and Families, Baltimore: 1966.

King, Archibald, King William Courthouse, B. C. Garrett, Jr., 1963.

O'Neal, William B., Architecture in Virginia, New York: Walker and Company, Inc., 1968.

Ryland, Elizabeth Hawes, compiler, King William County, Virginia, Richmond, Virginia: Dietz Press, 1955.

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		37° 41' 18"	77° 00' 46"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:	
Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission	April 25, 1969
STREET AND NUMBER:	
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE
Richmond	Virginia
	CODE
	45

## 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

Edw. P. Alexander

Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman

Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Comm.

Date June 2, 1969

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest Allen Connally  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

Oct 1 1969

ATTEST:

William J. Swartz  
Keeper of The National Register

Date

Oct 1 1969

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



lat, 37° 41' 18"

long, 77° 00' 46"

King William County Court House